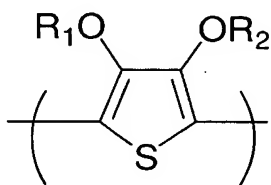


ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a process for preparing polythiophenes comprised of unit structures of the
5 general formula 1:



(1)

where R₁ and R₂ independently represent hydrogen or a C₁-C₄
alkyl group, or together represent an optionally substituted
10 C₁-C₄ alkylene group, preferably an optionally alkyl-
substituted methylene group, an optionally C₁-C₄ alkyl- or
phenyl-substituted 1,2-ethylene group, a 1,3-propylene group
or a 1,2-cyclohexylene group. More specifically, the process
according to the present invention is characterized by the
15 fact that it is performed by cationic polymerization from
2,5-dihalothiophene in the presence of an acid catalyst,
such as Lewis acid, protic acid, oxygen acid, or polymeric
acid. The conductivity of the resulting polythiophene is
255 S/cm under optimal conditions.

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